



Resident **DHC** News

1301 E. Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan, 48207 • (313) 877-8000
John Nelson, Jr., Executive Director • John W. Hurt, Deputy Executive Director

SUMMER 2001

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DHC Submits Notice Of Intent To Separate From City Government

The Detroit Housing Commission and the Mayor's Office have announced the Commission's intention to become an entity separate and distinct from the City of Detroit. The change will be in accordance with an amendment made to Michigan State Law in 1996. The Detroit Housing Commission will become an independent agency on September 21, 2001.

The goal of the separation is to improve the agency's efficiency and effectiveness in delivering resident services. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will remain as oversight with the Mayor appointing the Commission.

"Separation will help us accomplish our main goal which is to provide high quality services to our customers, the residents of public housing," said John Nelson, Jr., DHC's Executive Director.

HUD Awards \$4.1 Million For Housing Vouchers

HUD has announced that DHC will receive 663 new Housing Choice Vouchers (formerly known as Section 8 vouchers and certificates). The \$4.1 million in funding is designed to help very low-income families, people with disabilities, and elderly, find decent, safe and affordable housing in the private housing market.

"The vouchers represent an excellent opportunity to meet the need for affordable housing in Detroit," said John Nelson, Jr., DHC's Executive Director.

Implosion Brings Down Four Towers At Jeffries



A successful demolition implosion brought down four towers at Jeffries Homes on Sunday, April 29.



As part of the final phase of the demolition schedule, Commission staff met at 5:30 AM at the Jef-

fries Computer Lab to begin transporting residents from Jeffries to the Hotel Pontchatrain where the residents watched the implosion on television and enjoyed a festive day of food and activities. Several special needs residents had been transported on Saturday. All residents were returned safely without incident following the implosion.

The demolition is part of a \$98 million HOPE VI development plan which will create Woodbridge Estates. Plans call for 626 on-site units and 264 off-site units.

Midnight Golf Participants Attend Training In Florida

The Professional Golfers Association (PGA) has invited six DHC Midnight Golf participants to attend a week-long training course at the PGA Training Facility in St. Lucia, Florida. The training will be paid for by the PGA with the Commission providing a per diem, and one night's lodging for the participants.



Executive Director's Column

Dear Resident,

On June 29, the Detroit Housing Commission submitted a response to HUD concerning the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) HOPE VI audit. The Commission's response showed that \$16 million of the \$18 million HUD alleged to be unsupported or ineligible costs should be



John Nelson, Jr.

considered supported or eligible costs.

Recommendations were also made in the report to resolve the remaining monetary issues and to institute improved policies and procedures acceptable to HUD. The OIG report recommends not only the recovery of federal funds, but further sanctions of receivership and administrative action. There is nothing in the audit's findings and recommendations that justifies extraordinary, punitive measures.

The Commission seeks immediate withdrawal of the OIG's recommendations. The OIG's report failed to recognize the significant improvements that the agency made in removing itself from HUD's list of troubled housing authorities. Detroit Housing had been on the troubled list from 1979 until 1997, when management improvements created a dramatic improvement in the agency's performance. In our latest Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) Review, we received a positive review from HUD and will retain our status as a standard performing agency. Also, HUD has recommended that DHC's maintenance practices in the area of systems inspections be recognized as a best practice.

Connie Bunch Retires: The Detroit Housing Commission lost not just an Asset Manager but an asset recently when Connie Bunch retired after 31 years of service with the Detroit Housing Commission and the Detroit Housing Department. She started as a Community Services Worker (Leasing Aide) at Parkside in '70. She became a Housing Manager in '74, an Asset Manager in '95, and General Manager of Operations in '96. She decided to return to her Asset Manager position after several years as General Manager. She will be missed.

Drug Elimination Cuts: According to the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), the Veteran Affairs, HUD, and Independent Agencies' Appropriations Bill will work its way through committee and the full House in July. The Appropriations Bill will then move to the Senate for a vote expected in August or September. President Bush proposed ending the Drug Elimination Program in his budget message to Congress.

Resident News

By Betty Scott, President
DHC Resident Advisory Board

It is a busy time at DHC for resident affairs. First, thanks to all the residents who participated in **Clean Sweep** for 2001. We once again made our communities look their best.



Betty Scott

A new intergenerational jobs program called **Work Alternatives for Youth and Seniors (WAYS)** will provide 18 DHC youngsters age 14-22 and nine seniors with jobs organizing **Summer Lunch** and **Midnight Basketball**.

Sports activities ongoing include **Midnight Basketball**, **Midnight Golf**, **Baseball** and the gymnastics **Tumbling Program**. The Midnight Golf and Basketball programs include self improvement workshops which create lasting value beyond the joy of sport for the participants.

The **Parkside Safety Fair** provided bicycle safety helmets, fun and fellowship for Parkside residents on June 28.



Museum Hosts "Heroes and Heroines"

The Museum of African American History provided an exquisite setting on Monday, April 30, 2001 for a ceremony called "Heroes and Heroines." The event served two purposes: to swear in the newly elected Resident Council Leaders, and to present a lifetime achievement award to a resident leader.

Commission President **Lisa Webb Sharpe** served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Detroit City Clerk **Jackie Currie** presided over the Resident Council swearing in ceremony. **Angela Brown Wilson** spoke on behalf of the Mayor's Office.

Lonza Griffin of Jeffries Resident Council received a lifetime achievement award for his work representing public housing residents in Jeffries Homes. The following are the Resident Council officers who were elected in the April elections:

Brewster Douglass, President, **Rosanna Johnson**; Vice-President, **Martha Jane Coleman**; Corresponding Secretary, **Denise Richardson**; Treasurer, **Fletcher L. Drayton**; Charles C. Diggs, Jr. Homes, President, **Carolyn Williams**; Vice-President, **Patricia Hopes**; Recording Secretary, **Patricia Robinson**; Corresponding Secretary, **Robin Hearn**; Treasurer, **Henrietta Chambers**; Charles Terrace, President, **Beatrice Sharkey**; Conner Waveney, President, **Ethel Dixon**; Vice-President, **Alvinia Williams**; Recording Secretary, **Zelma Greenlee**; Corresponding Secretary, **Sharon Powell**; Treasurer, **Carl Burkett**; Forest Park, President, **Dixie Smith**; Vice-President, **Bro. Michael A. Gray-Bey**; Recording Secretary, **Ida High**; Treasurer, **Johnnie Mae Williams**; Harriet Tubman, President, **Helen Randall**; Vice-President, **Emerson Brown**; Corresponding Secretary, **Catherine Stanley**; Recording Secretary, **Rose Freeman**; Treasurer, **Katherine Slaughter**; Jeffries Homes, President, **Lonza Griffin**; Vice-President, **Lois Williams**; Corresponding Secretary, **Josephine Davis**; Recording Secretary, **Cassandra Ellis**; Treasurer, **Mary Griffin**; Sheridan I, President, **Ford Landrum**; Vice-President, **Perralene Madison**; Record-

Letter From Detroit Police Department's Housing Support Division



Commander Frank Ward

Dear Resident,

We need your help. We have diligently put together an excellent team of Detroit Police Officers to provide safety and security for public housing residents. We have installed modern and sophisticated security equipment. And, as a result of our efforts, we have eliminated many outside instigators from our developments.

However, our efforts will only fully succeed if we have the cooperation of the residents. We are asking everyone to practice the following safety protocol:

- * Don't let unaccompanied guests into the building;
- * Don't associate with anyone who may endanger you or someone else who lives in public housing;
- * Report crime and loitering individuals immediately by calling us at **596-6123**.

If we all follow these steps together we can nurture a safe and rewarding living environment.

ing Secretary, **Bessie Ardis**; Treasurer, **Vallie L. Walters**, Financial Secretary, **Lottie Williams**; Sheridan II, President, **Betty Scott**; Vice-President, **Thelma Murphy**; Corresponding Secretary, **Eula Barber**; Recording Secretary, **Janice Smith**; Treasurer, **David Jenkins**; John W. Smith Homes, President, **Velma Jackson**; Vice-President, **Donald Walker**; Recording Secretary, **Janet Lee**; Treasurer, **Kim Terry**; Sojourner Truth, President, **Regina Rogers**; State Fair, President, **Anthony Mason**; Vice-President, **Oliver Strickland**; Warren West, President, **Hubert Reaves**; Vice-President, **Lallie Epps**; Recording Secretary, **Johnnie Thomas**; Treasurer, **Pauline Humphrey**; Villages at Parkside, President, **Carol Mayes**; Vice-President, **Catherine Rowe**; Treasurer, **Johnny Newborn**.

DHC Senior Corner

Harriet Tubman: Harriet Tubman will have an exercise room in the near future if it is feasible.

Sheridan Place I: DHC is in the process of approving Rx Rehab Physical Therapy Inc.'s application to provide services at the site.

The Beauty Shop will reopen by the end of July.

Sheridan Place II: St. John's Riverview Hospital continues to provide medical services and information to Sheridan residents.

State Fair: DHC is investigating the possibility of bringing ATM services on site for the residents.

All Senior Sites: Commander Frank Ward continues to meet with residents on security issues.

All Senior Sites: DHC plans to provide seniors with entertaining and educational services in the fall. Look for new, innovative programs which will bridge the generational gap in our communities.

DHC Senior Housing Available

DHC is presently accepting applications for senior housing. Detroit residents age 62 and older who meet income requirements are eligible. For more information or to receive an application call (313) 877-8728.

Calendar of Events

**Home Ownership
Orientation -- July 31**

**Entrepreneurship Training
And Open House --
August**

**Youth Tenant Council
Trip To Cedar Point --
August 6**

**NOAAH Conference --
September 12 - 14**

**Herman Gardens'
Resident Picnic --
August 11**

**Woodbridge Estates
Fair-- September**

Job Fair-- August 17

**Pre Apprenticeship
Program -- Fall**

**Celebration For WAYS
Program -- August 24**

**Financial Seminar--
Fall**

Resident Survey Reminder: The Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey is one of four ways that HUD's new Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) will evaluate DHC's performance through the new Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS). The survey will measure resident satisfaction and experience with their living conditions. Resident households will be randomly selected to receive the survey. If selected, residents are encouraged to please take the time to complete the survey. Resident participation is essential to the survey's success. Resident opinion is very important to HUD.



Resident DHC News

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City Of Detroit

Dennis W. Archer, Mayor
Jackie L. Currie, City Clerk

Detroit City Council

Gil Hill, President
Maryann Mahaffey, President Pro Tem
Clyde Cleveland
Kenneth V. Cockrel
Sheila Cockrel
Kay Everett
Nicholas Hood, III
Brenda M. Scott
Alberta Tinsley-Talabi

Detroit Housing Commission

John Nelson, Jr., Executive Director
John W. Hurt, Deputy Executive Director

DHC Board of Commissioners

Lisa Webb Sharpe, President
Betty Scott, Vice President
Steven Flum
Carol Mayes
Leona Stallworth

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